PATENT

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in the present application. In the above preliminary amendments, new

claims 2-16 have been added.

Applicants respectfully request examination of the application with consideration of

claims 1-16 as presented herein. Applicants believe claims 1-16 to be patentable and accordingly

requests early allowance of the application

Specification

Applicants provide herewith amendments to the specification. The amendments to the

specification are made by presenting marked up replacement paragraphs which identify changes

made relative to the immediate prior version.

Specifically, Applicants amend the claim of priority such that the present application is a

CIP of the priority application.

Applicants believe these changes add no new matter to the application and are fully

supported by the original disclosure.

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REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, consideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

02/05/2004

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